

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 9:48:24 PM

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Date: 2021-09-15  
First Name: Cheryl  
Last Name: Smith  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Grand Prairie  
State: Texas  
Zipcode: 75052  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Cheryl Smith of Grand Prairie in Tarrant County, and I am a resident of Senate District 22, Texas House District 101 and Congressional District 6. I have lived in Tarrant County for over 20 years and a proud resident, wife, mother, grandmother, devoted believer in Christ Jesus, career professional that still is able to spend a lot of time volunteering for our community!

The recently released census numbers show that Tarrant County has a population of over 2 million and grew by over 300,000 persons since 2010. All of this growth in Tarrant County is by African American, Latino and Asian American residents who now call our county home.

While my community is blessed to have the ability to elect our candidate of choice in the State House, we do not have the ability to elect our candidates of choice to Congress or the State Senate.

The Southeastern portions of Tarrant County currently within both Senate District 22 and Congressional District 6 are fast growing and heavily diverse. In 2018, most of our area elected the candidates of choice of the minority community to both the County Commissioners Court Precinct 2 and to represent us on Justice of the Peace Precinct 7. In 2020, we again elected a minority candidate of choice by electing our candidate, Sandra Lee, for Constable in Precinct 7.

Election after election show clear trends. Residents of SE Tarrant County, specifically residents in SE Arlington, Grand Prairie and Mansfield, are electing candidates who represent the interests of minority communities to represent our values in the halls of power.

As the Senate Redistricting committee approaches congressional redistricting, I would urge the committee to retain Congressional District 33 as a Tarrant County based minority opportunity district. District 33 was created by the courts in 2011 and spans Tarrant to Dallas County. The district is anchored in Tarrant County where African American voters vote in coalition with other minority groups to elect Marc Veasey.

The core of Congressional District 33 must be maintained but I urge the committee to expand the district out to key minority populations in the southern and eastern part of Tarrant County to include Mansfield, Grand Prairie and old east Arlington to maintain CD 33 as a performing district. This reconfiguration would allow my community to finally have the ability to elect a candidate of our choice to Congress and also allow the creation of a new Dallas based Latino opportunity district to reflect the growing Latino population in North Texas.

I could not be more disappointed by the 2011 State Senate map that has drawn my community into Senate District 22 which is anchored in Waco and other rural counties. Our inclusion in Senate District 22 is a clear “crack” to dilute our voice in elections to the Texas Senate. Just to our west, minority voters have an opportunity to elect their candidate of choice in Senate District 10 which is represented by Beverly Powell.

While Senate District 10 can retain its current configuration, any changes to SD10 must reflect Tarrant County’s growing diversity and respect that Senate District 10 is a protected minority district by federal courts and may not be dissolved.

Should the committee make any changes to SD10, I ask that the Tarrant County portion of Senate District 22 be drawn into SD10 so we can unite with minority voters in Mansfield, Forest Hill, Everman, SW Fort Worth, SE Fort Worth, and traditionally Latino areas of the county to elect a candidate of our choice to the State Senate.

As a long-time Tarrant County resident and community leader I also ask the committee to resist any attempts to take our community in SE Tarrant County and use our voices to fill populations in a Dallas-based congressional or State Senate district. Our community has far more in common with our neighbors in SE Fort Worth, Forest Hill, Everman and other minority areas of Tarrant County.

I thank members of the committee for your service to Texas and ask the committee to respect the growing diversity of our state in the 2021 redistricting process.

